

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13253

PARIS/LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XY, GW, US
SUBJECT: BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA: WEST AFRICA
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1. DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN (JULY 17), ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE HAD A LENGTHY TOUR D'HORIZON WITH
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS MUELLER
AND OTHER FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
AFRICA. ONE OF THE TOPICS COVERED WAS WESTERN
RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN AFRICA,

PARTICULARLY WITH GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, CAPE VERDE, BENIN AND MALI.

2. MUELLER OPENED THE CONVERSATION WITH THE STATEMENT THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE WEST AS A WHOLE MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE SMALLER COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR US TO WRITE-OFF COUNTRIES SUCH AS GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, CAPE VERDE, AND BENIN AS IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNIST CAMP. IN MUELLER'S VIEW, THESE REGIMES WERE BECOMING MORE RELAXED WITH THEIR REVOLUTIONARY ZEAL AND HAD BEGUN TO SIGNAL THEIR INTEREST IN GREATER CONTACT WITH THE WEST. IT SEEMED TO BE IN OUR INTERESTS TO DO SO.

3. IN ADDITION THE MUELLER-MOOSE CONVERSATION COVERED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS:

-- GUINEA: MUELLER NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA WARRANTED CLOSE ATTENTION. THE GUINEAN AMBASSADOR HAD BROUGHT TO THE FRG'S ATTENTION THE FACT IT HAD NOT CONDEMNED "WESTERN INTERVENTION" IN ZAIRE, CLAIMING THAT "WE NO LONGER DO THAT." THE FRG IS CONSIDERING UPGRADING ITS AID PROGRAM TO GUINEA.

-- MALI: MUELLER RECOMMENDED THE NEW MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (BEYA) AS A USEFUL INTERLOCUTOR, ASSERTING
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THAT HE IS A NATIONALIST BUT ONE WHO IS OPEN TO FRANK AND CRITICAL TALK. MOOSE AND MUELLER AGREED THAT MALI IS IN A PIVOTAL POSITION IN A VERY VULNERABLE REGION OF AFRICA.

-- GUINEA-BISSAU: REACTING TO MOOSE'S STATEMENT THAT THE US IS GIVING THOUGHT TO AID TO GUINEA-BISSAU, MUELLER COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE FRG ALREADY HAD SIGNED AID AGREEMENTS WITH THAT COUNTRY, RELATIONS HAVE BECOME ENTANGLED IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE BERLIN CLAUSE. GUINEA-BISSAU HAD SIGNED THE STANDARD AID AGREEMENT (CONTAINING A CLAUSE RECOGNIZING THE FRG'S RIGHT TO REPRESENT WEST BERLIN), BUT HAD RECENTLY INFORMED THE FRG THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO SIGNED FOR THEIR SIDE HAD DONE SO WITHOUT AUTHORITY. MUELLER ATTRIBUTED THIS REVERSAL TO DIRECT GDR PRESSURE.

-- SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: NOTING ITS POTENTIAL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND THE FACT THAT IT SEEMS TO FEEL NEGLECTED, MUELLER TOLD MOOSE THAT THE FRG IS THINKING OF WAYS TO AID THIS ISLAND GROUPING.

4. IN CONCLUSION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE OFFERED TO HAVE A "ROUND-UP" PREPARED ON US THINKING AND AID PLANS VIS-A-VIS WEST AFRICA AND PASS IT ON TO MUELLER FOR HIS INFORMATION.

5. THE ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE.
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